

Army Names New IAV “Stryker”

The Army, in a ceremony on February 27 at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., formally named the Interim Armored Vehicle (IAV) “Stryker” in honor of Private First Class Stuart S. Stryker and Specialist Fourth Class Robert F. Stryker, Medal of Honor recipients who served in two different wars.

On March 24, 1945, near Wesel, Germany, PFC Stuart S. Stryker of Company E, 513th Parachute Infantry, 17th Airborne Division, inspired his fellow soldiers to follow him through intense German machine gun fire, ultimately enabling other elements of his company to capture more than 200 enemy soldiers and free three American prisoners.

SPC Robert F. Stryker (a grenadier with Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st ID) during an enemy attempt to encircle his company near Loc Ninh, Republic of Vietnam, November 7, 1967, threw himself on a mine as it was detonated, saving the lives of several of his wounded comrades.

Both men, killed in these selfless acts, were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley, who presided at the naming ceremony, said, “This is a tremendous combat vehicle, and it is totally appropriate that we name it after two great soldiers who gave their last full measure of devotion on the battlefield in defense of our nation.”

The Stryker will equip the new Interim Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs), the first two of which are located



at Fort Lewis, Wash. The units, 3d Brigade, 2d Infantry Division and 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, are expected to be equipped and ready for deployment in Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004, respectively. There are plans for four additional IBCTs.

The Stryker family of vehicles will include 10 configurations: Infantry Carrier Vehicle, Mobile Gun System, Anti-Tank Guided Missile Vehicle, Mortar Carrier, Reconnaissance Vehicle, Fire Support Vehicle, Engineer Support Vehicle, Command Vehicle, Medical Evacuation Vehicle, and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Reconnaissance Vehicle.

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